(d) whether more than 3000 officers have applied for pre-mature retirement and there is shortage of 11,500 officers in an authorized strength of 46,600; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Presently, there is a shortage of 11153 officers in the Army, mainly in the ranks of Lt. Colonel and below. A total number of 3184 officers have applied for pre-mature retirement during the last 5 years. Several steps have been undertaken by the Army to make the career in the services attractive.

All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. In addition to the above, 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonels have been upgraded to Colonel's rank. The tenure of SSC officers has also been extended from 10 years to 14 years.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained Image Projection and publicity campaigns to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed VI Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other service conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commision by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

Transfer of T-90 tanks technology

660. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had entered into agreement with Russian manufacturers of the T-90 tanks regarding its technology transfer; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Russian manufacturers have been reluctant in transferring the technology; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the issue has been taken up with the leadership of that country during the bilateral visits, and if so, what has been the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A Transfer of Technology contract was concluded in February 2001 with Russia for indigenous manufacture of T90 tanks.

(b) and (c) Transfer of Technology documents for indigenous production of T-90 tanks have been received. Some details related to steel of gun barrel and armour plates are required. Matter has been taken up with the Russian leadership during bilateral meetings at various

levels and during the visit of Raksha Mantri in October 2007. Russian side has assured full supoort for indigenous production of T-90 tanks in India.

Offset clause in DPP 2008

661. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Offset clause in the recent Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP) 2008;

(b) whether it is a fact that the global arms suppliers have indicated reservations over the Offset clause;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government proposes to make change in DPP 2006 to address the reservations of the suppliers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government promulgated Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 with effect from 1st September, 2006 to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed. Procedure for implementing Offset Provisions is part of DPP-2006 and provides for discharge of offset obligations directly by any combination of the following methods:

(i) Direct purchase of, or executing export orders for, defence products and components manufactured by, or services provided by, Indian defence industries, i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings, the Ordnance Factory Board, and any private defence industry manufacturing these products or components under an industrial licence granted for such manufacture. For the purpose of defence offset, "services" will mean maintenance, overhaul, upgradation, life extension, engineering, design, testing, defence related software or quality assurance services.

(ii) Direct foreign investment in Indian defence industries for industrial infrastructure for services, co-development, joint ventures and co-production of defence products.

(iii) Direct foreign investment in Indian organizations engaged in research in Defence Research & Development as certified by Defence Offset Facilitation Agency (DOFA).

DPP-2006 provides for review of the procurement procedure after every two years in the light of the practical experience gained in its implementation.

Vendors have not expressed any reservation to the Offset clause, though they have given few suggestions.

Naxal attacks in the country

662. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxal attacks in various States have increased manifold in recent times;